

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR, HA

SUBJECT:SUGAR SYRUP PRICES

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 1278

1. LIQUID SUGAR IS SIMPLY A SOLUTION OF SUGAR IN WATER. THE SUGAR CAN BE SUCROSE, INVERT, OR A MIXTURE OF THE TWO. COMMERCIAL LIQUID SUGARS ARE NEARLY ALWAYS SATURATED SOLUTIONS, THIS KEEPS THE WATER CONTENT OF THE SOLUTION AT A MINIMUM. WHILE THE WORD "SYRUP" IS OFTEN USED LOOSELY TO MEAN "LIQUID SUGAR," THERE IS A GROWING TREND TOWARD A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THESE TWO TERMS. THIS IS BASED ON THE EXPIRED U.S. SUGAR ACT DEFINITION OF A LIQUID SUGAR AS A SOLUTION CONTAINING LESS THAN SIX PERCENT SOLUBLE NONSUGAR SOLIDS.

2. USING THIS DEFINITION, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE AN AVERAGE TIME SERIES OF PRICES ON SUGAR SYRUP. PRICES FOR LIQUID SUGAR ARE PUBLISHED ON A DAILY BASIS IN THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, BUT DO NOT SEEM TO BE COMPILED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

3. THE PRICE OF LIQUID SUGAR IS ABOUT 65-67 PERCENT
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OF THE MARKET PRICE OF REFINED SUGAR. THE 1970-74 MONTHLY

AVERAGE PRICE OF REFINED SUGAR IN THE U.S. RETAIL
MARKET WAS 17.59 CENTS PER POUND. AVERAGE PRICES WERE:
1970, 12.97 CENTS PER POUND; 1971, 13.61; 1972, 13.91;
1973, 15.10; 1974, 32.34; 1975, JAN.-MARCH, 54.32.

4. IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED, SUGGEST BUSINESS-
MEN CONTACT U.S. SUGAR BROKERS OR REFINERS.

5. LITTLE LIQUID SUGAR IS IMPORTED IN THE U.S. BECAUSE
OF THE HIGH FREIGHT COST OF IMPORTING ONE-THIRD WATER
WHEN A LIQUID SOLUTION CAN EASILY BE MADE AT U.S.
REFINERIES. KISSINGER

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